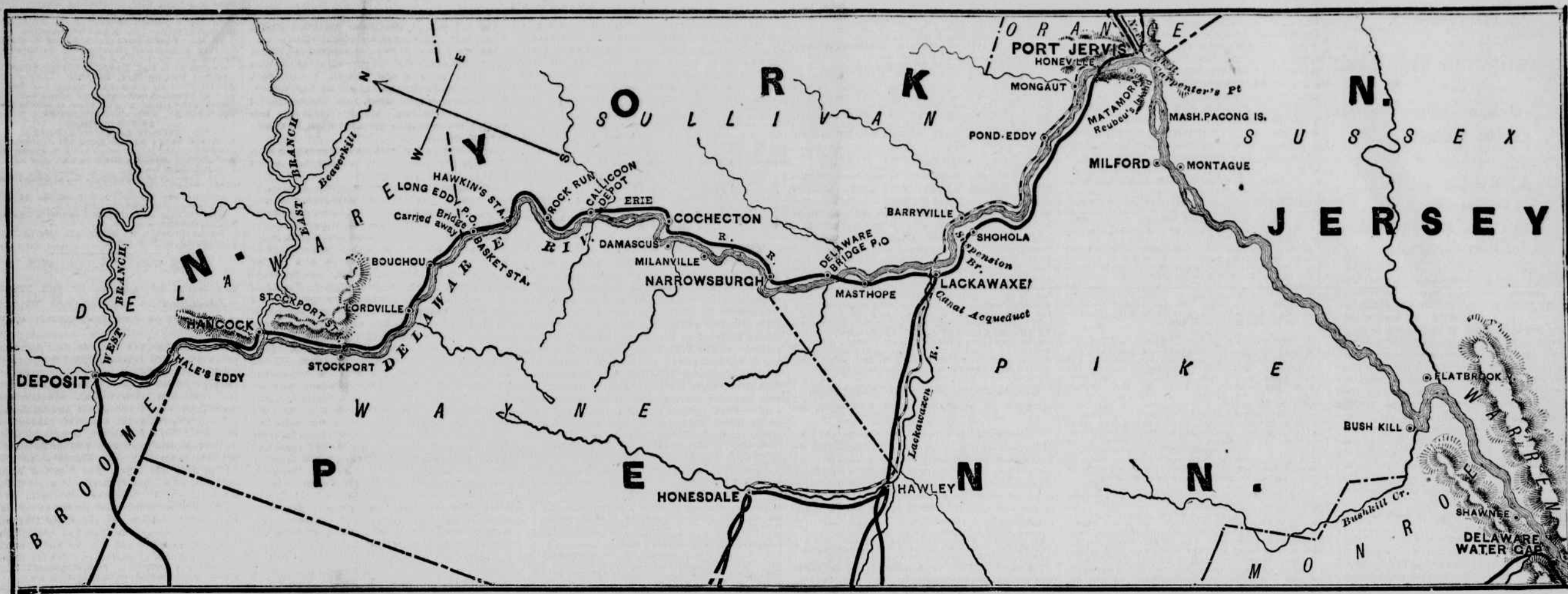


Map of the Delaware River from Deposit to the Water Gap, Showing the Extent of the Great Flood and the Threatened Towns.



PORT JERVIS, March 17, 1875.
At last the great agony is over and Port Jervis

THE WARNING OF DESTRUCTION.

Last night the alarm came that a heavy rain was in motion. The water in the river, the report ran, the river had risen ten feet and was raising "a foot a minute." The rain, as actually realized was not sufficiently alarming detail in this story, and the threatened foot a minute presented a picture of speculative horrors that the rural imagination could not grasp. If the ten feet prediction was maintained as far down as this what would become of Fort Jervis? It would be swept by a great many more than the usual "runty" water. The water, and a flood over the ice accumulated here, at least six feet higher than the bank and give a foot of depth at points above the railway station, in water a low deep there is no great power to carry houses away, but there is power to do much damage; and, moreover, as we shall see presently, the water itself is not the greatest immediate cause of destruction in cases of this sort. Water sweeps the ice, and the ice goes on, and the ice goes on, and the prediction in this case was the tremendous accumulation of ice that waited into the gigantic accumulated impulse of the melted mountains.

AN IMMENSE BLAST.

Near seven o'clock a great blast was made of fifty pounds of nitro-glycerine. This had been previously placed under the ice at the strongest point of the dam to await the critical moment when the water would make the weakening of the structure advantageous. Undoubtedly this had a very great effect in weakening the mass. It threw large fragments 500 feet into the air and destroyed the real point of resistance.

A little before seven the river began to rise slowly near the town, the suspension bridge being crowded with spectators. Chief of Police Waihey had been going to the sound to aid the men. Several women were so excited over their husbands in chairs; in fact no less than half a dozen sick persons were thus rescued from the dreaded danger.

DESTRUCTION OF THE IRON BRIDGE.

The enormous mass of ice, not more than twenty, perhaps thirty feet, in height and from one to two miles in length, was simply blown apart down the course of the river by the water behind it, and was ploughing its way, clearing out with tremendous efficiency whatever was before it. It

THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE CARRIED AWAY.

About nine o'clock the ice that came dashing down the river seemed to increase in size, in fact, to the point where it was now carrying with it two or three times the weight up against the Suspension Bridge, but they did no material damage to congratulate themselves that the bridge would be saved, but they were doomed to disappointment, for in about twenty minutes a portion of the bridge was broken and the weight of the tremendous force. It appears that after it had carried away it grounded about two miles above this place, but the bridge was not broken by the tremendous force, but by the heavy rush of ice, and then there was nothing to stay a passage down to Fort Jervis. As it passed Germantown it struck a little below the bridge, and it was not broken by a collision and pieces. On it came toward the Suspension Bridge, and struck that just north of the centre pier and it was broken in two. The bridge was split in two, with all the girders on the eastern side, and in less than three minutes the whole structure was swept away. Only a few pieces of the bridge were left, and the rest of the northwestern culvert was started it dashed against the frame culvert adjoining the bridge on the east side and it was broken in two. The northwestern culvert was started it dashed against the frame culvert adjoining the bridge on the east side and it was broken in two. The northwestern culvert was started it dashed against the frame culvert adjoining the bridge on the east side and it was broken in two.

As the ice came on, a cooking stove was being in the air, followed by chairs and tables, and in a second the pines was a perfect wreck. The bridge was broken in two. The northwestern culvert was started it dashed against the frame culvert adjoining the bridge on the east side and it was broken in two.

King and was occupied by one Mrs. Douglass, but the latter and her family had all been removed to a place of safety.

At this point a shriek of horror arose from the crowds at various points, and every one shouted,

"THERE GOES THE BRIDGE!"

The iron bridge, after carrying away the Suspension Bridge, was forced toward the eastern

MORE DANGER.
There are still fears of another flood. The various streams that run into the Delaware are beginning to fill again, and the people predict another drowning out. The water remains about the same height as after ten o'clock A. M. Immense quantities of ice have passed down all day long.

floating away among the broken ice in a very short time, and horses, cows and pigs were seen on all hands swimming for places of safety. Devereaux's extensive sawmill was removed from its foundations, and thousands of dollars' worth of lumber were swept away. The water had reached almost the centre of the village, and stores and dwellings were being emptied of their contents, when a channel was forced through the gorge and the water receded, passing in a flood of heaving ice down the river, bearing away lumber, houses, barns and several villages. Many valuable horses were deposited and crushed at the same time. Between Devereaux and Hule's Edge portions of the carcasses of horses lie high up on the ice cast upon the banks.

STRET INTO ETERNITY.

From Depest the flood passed by Hule's Edge, where it took away nearly a million feet of lumber ready for rafting, belonging to Henry Evans and James Fulkler. A white man, who was keeping a lookout out for the property, was washed away before he could escape, and his body has not yet been seen. Every fence or tree standing along the bank was carried off. When the advancing ice struck the ice gorge at Hule's Edge, which formed on February 27, there was a momentary check. The moving ice rose with the force behind it in a great wave, more than fifty feet high, and rolled over the obstruction, which was soon torn away and

After the destruction of telegraph communication at Hancock, R. W. Ware, superintendent of the track on the Delaware division, started in a bandwagon for that point to give warning to the station.

the ice jammed on Calicoon Island, and now stretched back seven miles. Then the ice broke up and drifted toward the mouth, and then got away. Calicoon Creek was jammed back a mile. The bank was piled high with ice in a few minutes and the water over the rocks and gravel was broken to pieces. The ice made a leantham at Rock Run and flooded Calicoon. When the residents had deserted their houses long before the ice came, they were glad to stay in the work of destruction going on around them. Acres of fertile river bottom were cut away at this point. The jam at Rock Run was of longer duration than any of the previous ones, but broke away about midnight.

COCHETON'S EXPERIENCE.

The flood passed beneath Cocheton Bridge without doing any damage, and got through Cocheton Falls. The danger that threatened the village was accordingly about to pass. But about one o'clock it was discovered that the water was backing up rapidly, and it was found that the ice was jammed in the narrows. A despatch from Narrowsburg informed the people of Cocheton that the ice had gorged back into Big Bend, two miles west of the former place. The ice jammed in the narrows, and the lower part of Cocheton was drowned out. The water stood four feet deep in the houses. As at previous points, large quantities of lumber were piled up on the river bank. When the ice finally soon struck the "Narrows" in the channel at Narrowsburg. This is the place where the Big Bend is made. The river narrows here. Both shores of the "Narrows" are perpendicular rocks thirty feet high, and a wooden bridge about one hundred feet long spans the river. The ice jammed in the narrows, and the water was raised to a level of about ten feet. The ice in the Big Bend was four feet thick, and when the flood reached it was

seen in the huge slabs of solid ice piled up along the banks and in many places tossed up into rugged promontories twenty feet high. The grounds of the elegant residences along the river point on the west side are terribly disfigured by the uncouth accumulations left in the spring flood. In and around the

Although the bridges are gone and the river has
abandoned considerably, there exist great ap-
prehensions with regard to a supplementary
lood, which will undoubtedly set in with warmer
weather. It has been ascertained that all the ice
as not gone out yet. Indeed, a gorge of unusual
proportions and strength has formed since last
night, beginning at a point about two miles above
this place and extending up the river beyond
Ransom, which is about eight miles from
here. This gorge is in extent about
half a mile wide, and it goes up the
Susquehanna at least ten miles, if not further.
The whole distance is covered with vast acres of
crystal slabs, from three to four feet thick, and
massed in irregular conformations to the average
height of twenty feet. Looking down upon it
from a bridgehead in the mountain below Camp-
bell's Lodge to-night, the scene is one of terrific
Arctic grandeur. The rugged peaks of the crystal
blocks stand like giant spears and reflect the pale
rays of the moon with spectral significance. This
gorge is the only one of the kind in the main
range, and almost perpendicular in their formation
and now covered with two or three feet of snow.

COMMUNICATION CUT OFF.

Many railroad lines are cut off, and all rail-
road communications are cut off. The Lehigh
valley road, which touches here, is covered with
water and ice to the depth of several feet. The

CONTINUED ON TENTH PAGE.